METHOD OF QUALITY OF SERVICE BASED FLOW CONTROL WITHIN A DISTRIBUTED SWITCH FABRIC NETWORK

Abstract of the Disclosure

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In a distributed switch fabric network (300) having a first node (302) having a first node transceiver port (305) and a second node (304) having a second node transceiver port (340), link level flow control (370) operating between the first node transceiver port and the second node transceiver port to in response to a congestion condition (321) in the

10   second node transceiver port, wherein the link level flow control suspends transmission of one of a plurality of priority levels of packets (312) on a channel from the first node transceiver port to the second node transceiver port. The one of the plurality of priority levels of packets accumulates in one of a plurality of a transmit buffers (362) of the first transceiver port, where the one of the plurality of transmit buffers corresponds to the one

15   of the plurality of priority levels of packets. Per-flow flow control (372) operates to modify transmission of the one of the plurality of priority levels of packets to the transmit buffer if the transmit buffer reaches a transmit threshold value (360). Link level flow control operates transparently to a traffic manager (352) of the first node if the congestion condition occurs and the one of the plurality of transmit buffers fails to reach the transmit

20   threshold value.